

HAER  
ILL  
16-CH16,  
132-

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,  
STATE STREET

HAER No. IL-135

Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor  
State Street crossing the Chicago River  
Chicago  
Cook County  
Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,  
STATE STREET

~~(Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor)~~  
HAER No. IL-135

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Location: State Street crossing the Chicago River  
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Date of  
Construction: 1942

Present Owner: City of Chicago.

Present Use: Highway Bridge.

Significance: Providing for eight lanes of traffic, the State Street Bridge contains three lines of trusses, part of which serves as a railing for the roadway and sidewalks. The railing-truss height was first used in 1922 in the city's Madison Street Bridge and engineers later employed this feature in the Wabash Street Bridge (1930) and the State Street Bridge. (See Donald N. Becker, "Development of the Chicago Type Bascule Bridge," Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, v. 109 [1944], 1021-22.)

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1987.

Project  
Information: This photographic documentation project of the bascule bridges crossing the Chicago River was carried out by Jet Lowe, HAER staff photographer, in 1987 and followed on the heels of an inventory of historic engineering and industrial sites in the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. HAER historian Gray Fitzsimons was project manager for this undertaking.